



Tavary: With "Mission of Mercy."

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IN 1997, COL James F. Reynolds, then commander of the 4225th U.S. Army Hospital at the Charles L. Sheridan U.S. Army Reserve Center in Helena, Mont., commissioned one of his soldiers to paint a mural at the hospital.

The job went to **SSG Annie Tavary**, based on the artistic ability she had displayed earlier with her entry in a unit T-shirt contest.

While Tavary was thrilled about being offered the job, she was also afraid she wouldn't be able to pull it off, she said. She'd had no formal art training, nor had ever drawn seriously. And she'd never worked with paint. Most of what she had done was colored-pencil drawings.

Planning for the project took considerable time, said Tavary, who came up with her own rendition of the statue of a combat medic and injured soldier at the Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Army Medical Department Museum.

Reynolds provided the supplies, Chris Bellville, an art teacher at area high schools, painted the background, and others, including Tavary's father, a supply sergeant at Fort Cheyenne, Wyo., during World War II, offered instructions on how to paint boots, for example.

When it was finished, Tavary entitled the mural, drawn on the wall of the hospital's drill-hall stairwell, "Mission of Mercy." She worked about 80 hours on the project, over a year's time, during drill weekends, she said.

"It was a unique opportunity to be more in touch with unit members," said Tavary. As she painted, unit members often stopped to talk about their own personal stories. It was an insight you don't glean during once-a-month drill weekends, she said.

Today, COL Dennis C. Drake, commander of the unit's higher headquarters, the 652nd Area Support Group, is planning to move the "Mission of Mercy" mural when the hospital relocates to a new building at Fort

Harrison, also in Helena.

Tavary — a full-time director of youth ministry at the First Presbyterian Church in Helena and co-director of "Lessons and Loaves," an after-school program that offers hot meals and mentoring to 9- to 12-year-olds — is a behavioral science specialist in the Reserve.

At the time of this writing, she planned to transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve. — 4225th U.S. Army Hospital release

LTC **Greg Hampton** first visited the hallowed ground at Gettysburg National Military Park, Pa., about a decade ago and remembers thinking, somewhat facetiously, "Oh, yes, this is moving."

He returned a few years later, during a Command and General Staff College staff ride and left with pretty much the same attitude of general interest in the military tactics that were employed at Gettysburg, but without much emotional involvement.

On yet another trip, something almost spiritual took place.

"I came to the Pennsylvania monument, and it was like someone had brushed by my shoulder," Hampton said. "It's really hard to describe what happened, but something just told me to turn around."

When he did, he came face to face with a monument inscribed "Hampton's Battery." The artillery battery commanded by CPT Robert Brown Hampton —

AT 82, and with 59 years of continuous government service behind him, retired **MSG Ted Liska** has no intention of leaving his position as mail clerk at the American Embassy in Paris.

That's because during his 31-year Army career he learned a letter from home is one of the most important things a soldier can receive, he said.

Liska entered the Army on Nov. 6, 1941, saw combat in Europe during World War II and fought in Korea and Vietnam. Collectively, he spent five years in combat and was decorated by the French, Korean, South Vietnamese and U.S. governments for his actions.

He was with the 4th Infantry Division when it landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. During operations to liberate Normandy, four of Liska's six-man 81mm mortar crew were killed. He participated in the liberation of Cherbourg and the Battle of St. Lo and many other campaigns immediately following the invasion.

Since World War II, Liska has returned almost annually to the cemetery at Omaha Beach to honor his comrades — the exceptions were in 1945, when he was training soldiers on their way to the Pacific Theater; 1965, when he was with the Vietnamese

Greg's great-great-great uncle — was part of the Army of the Potomac. The uncle, and his role at Gettysburg, was news to Greg.

The personal connection to the place suddenly piqued Hampton's interest, and he decided to research the battle to reveal similar connections for others. Besides learning more about his own relative, he learned about others who fought at Gettysburg, like Union PVT James Mahoney of the 147th New York Volunteers and Confederate MAJ Charles C. Blacknall of the 23rd North Carolina Volunteer Infantry.

Using detailed uniforms and the men's life stories as teaching tools, Hampton turns a battlefield tour into an exciting journey into the past for students at the Army Management Staff College, where he's a faculty member.

Students at Fredericksburg Christian Middle School, Va., where he volunteers, and visiting military members from other countries who request his time, also benefit from Hampton's enthusiastic presentation of the Battle of Gettysburg.



Hampton: Bringing Gettysburg to life.

First stop on Hampton's tour is near McPherson Ridge, west of town, where the first shots were fired. **Roy Eichhorn**, another AMSC faculty member, recently played the part of a professor at Gettysburg College and provided details about ordnance, logistics of the battle, and the town itself.

He explained that the individual weapons of the day required the men to stay in a mass and fire at the enemy from distances of less than 30 yards. There were artillery pieces that had ranges up to five miles, but no way to tell if the round hit its target.

Hampton detailed the various skirmishes pitched over the three days of fighting.

"The details bring Gettysburg to life," said Hampton, who pointed out depressions in the ground, near the site of a Confederate field hospital, where the fighting continued the afternoon of the first day. "Those depressions get green first every spring, because that's where the amputated limbs of the wounded were buried."

"I have been here eight or nine times before," said Australian BG Bill Mellor. "I have learned more today than in all my previous visits. Greg covered the fundamental strategy and the inspiration for this battle."

As the group reached the location of the third day's fighting, known as Pickett's Charge, Hampton led the group up a mile-long, slightly sloping hill, affording them the same perspective the 12,000 Confederate troops had as they charged into the relentless fire of the Union's massed artillery and muskets.

Historians estimate more than 43,500 men were killed, wounded, captured or missing in action after the three-day battle. The Confederacy never attacked in such magnitude again, and the battle became the turning point in the Civil War. — *Marcia L. Klein, Army Management Staff College*

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Liska: With President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1957 (right), and with GEN Colin Powell in 1989.

22nd Inf. Div. as a military adviser; and in 1971, when he was on the demilitarized zone in Korea with the 7th Inf. Div.

Liska and his French-born wife, Raymonde, have two sons, both U.S. Air Force officers. — *MSG Larry Lane, 2nd Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office*

